**Policy on 3G Spectrum**

1040. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had appointed a Committee consisting of Group of Ministers (GoM) to recommend the vacation plan for spectrum from Government and semi-Government agencies such as defence, space and paramilitary, etc.;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(c) by when the DoT would finalize the policy on 3G spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The policy on spectrum for 3G services would take into account the recommendations of GoM, which are awaited.

**Investment in broadband Infrastructure by BSNL**

1041. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State-owned telecom major Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has decided to invest about Rs. 2,000 crore to augment its broadband infrastructure in urban and rural areas across the country;

(b) whether the company recently announced that it would upgrade its existing broadband subscribers getting 256 kbps speed to 2mbs at the existing tariff of Rs. 250 a month;

(c) whether at present BSNL has 8.2 lakh subscribers using the 256 kbps broadband connection across the country; and

(d) whether BSNL is also gearing up to deploy Wi-Max in the rural areas where it is difficult to offer broadband connection over copper lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has ambitious plan to proliferate broadband in both urban and rural areas across the country in a progressive manner.

(b) Yes, Sir. With effect from 01-01-2007, all broadband customers, except customers with unlimited plan, have been upgraded to 2 Mbps at existing tariff, subject to technical feasibility.

(c) Present broadband customer base of BSNL across the country is 8.77 lakh. Initially, the minimum data rate was 256 Kbps which has now been upgraded to 2 Mbps, subject to technical feasiblity.

(d) Yes, Sir.

**It exports and imports by India**

1042. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IT exports worth sixty billion dollars are expected by the year 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries which are importing IT products from India and the level of their imports; and

(d) the current level of import of software and hardware and likely import by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) it is expected that Computer Software and related service export (including ITES) will exceed US $ 60 billion by the year 2010.